PRESENTATION

(Re)membering ‘Upena of Intimacies: A Kanaka Maoli Mo‘olelo Beyond Queer Theory

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First and foremost, this presentation takes aloha seriously. By exploring the ‘Ōiwi concepts of aloha ‘āina and pilina at the intersections of ‘ike Hawai‘i, Indigenous queer theory, and Indigenous feminisms, I offer an interdisciplinary investigation of ea, or Kanaka Maoli modes of nation-building and governance. Specifically, through a close examination of Hi‘iakaikapioleopele mo‘olelo, I discuss ways aloha ‘āina spins an ‘upena of intimacies, which I engage as both an ethics and practice of relationality grounded in ‘Ōiwi land, memory, and desire. This ‘upena represents Kanaka Maoli alternatives to white settler logics of heterosexism, cisheteropatriarchy, and heteronormativity. Woven from Hawai‘i’s archive of 19th and 20th century nūpepa, this presentation crafts Indigenous queer theory with our ‘ōlelo makuahine as foundation. To each ‘āina she departs Hi‘iaka chants: “Mai poina ‘oe iaʻu.” Indeed this work also prioritizes ‘āina-based methodologies of (re)membering. In this presentation, I join a succession of storytellers, scholars, and activists who have fought and continue to struggle to decolonize and deoccupy Hawai‘i. This ‘upena of intimacies is part of a larger call to action to take aloha seriously, to (re)member our kūpuna, and to create deoccupied and decolonial Kanaka Maoli futures.

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NOTE: Presentation is open to members and guests of the Department of Political Science
No recordings or videotaping permitted

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